

He was a zealous advocate for those laboratories and all the great work they can do. His leadership in that regard is one of the reasons we were able to achieve such a balanced piece of legislation.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the Senator is correct. I also observe, yes, but he was very objective about the seriousness of this problem. Throughout his deliberations, whether in Senator LOTT's office or the hearings or in our consultations together, he was always very objective, and he put national interests first at every step. So the Senator is correct.

I conclude with one sentence to my friend. I do not think if we recalled William Shakespeare from the grave that this provision on reorganization could have been written on the Department of Energy to satisfy everyone. That is the reason I have such deep regret about my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Many times we consulted them right down to the word and the comma and the like. We just did the very best we could, and I am proud of the work our committee did. I pay tribute to the respective staffs and my colleagues who worked on it.

We are fully accountable for the effectiveness, and we, as a committee, perhaps with other committees, will hold a hearing very early next fall to determine the progress, assuming this is signed, within a period of, say, 2 months after the President's signature is affixed.

I thank my distinguished colleague.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I want to make a few more comments regarding the conference of the House and the Senate. Quite apart from the DOE provision, we are very pleased that we made major strides in this legislation on behalf of the men and women of the U.S. military.

We have an authorized funding level of \$288.8 billion, which is \$8.3 billion above the President's budget request. And that is in real terms. This is the first time in 13 years that there has been a real—I repeat—real increase in the defense budget.

Our distinguished Presiding Officer is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He actively participated in structuring this piece of legislation. We have approved a 4.8-percent pay raise for military personnel, reform of the military pay tables, and annual military pay raises 0.5 percent above the annual increases in the Employment Cost Index.

We provide military members with a wider choice on their retirement system. We allowed both Active and Reserve component military personnel to

participate in thrift savings. There is nothing more important. Indeed, the tax legislation just passed—always, certainly, on this side of the aisle we are trying to seek ways to increase savings in our United States. I am pleased now we give wider opportunity to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

Strategic forces: We authorize a net increase of \$400 million for ballistic missile defense, a program that finally has achieved recognition under our distinguished colleague, Senator COCHRAN of Mississippi, in passing here a week ago, the important legislation, which the President has now signed, to take another step forward in protecting America against the likelihood that possibly some accidental firing or limited attack could be launched against this country. We have a long way to go, but through the leadership of Senator COCHRAN, and others, we have finally forged, I think, another, should we say, 10 yards on this lengthy ball field.

We authorize an increase of \$212 million for the Patriot PAC-3 system, again missile defense.

Seapower authorized a \$1 billion increase to the procurement budget request of \$18 billion and a \$251 million increase to the research, development, test, and evaluation budget request of \$3.9 billion for the Seapower Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Senator SNOWE.

Very able work was done on behalf of Senator SNOWE and the ranking member, Senator KENNEDY, for the Navy and the Marine Corps and a limited number of Air Force programs under their jurisdiction.

We extended the multiyear procurement authority for the DDG-51 procurement and authorized advance procurement and advance construction for the LHD-8. We authorize construction of three DDG-51 Arleigh Burke class destroyers, two LPD-17 San Antonio class amphibious ships, and one ADC(X), the first of a class of auxiliary refrigeration and ammunition supply ships.

We authorize advance procurement for 2 SSN-774 Virginia class attack submarines, and \$750 million for the CVN-77, the last of the Nimitz class aircraft carriers currently in planning. We will, however, go on with another class of carriers, and that is the subject of research and development.

In the readiness, we increase funding for military readiness by \$1.5 billion. It provides for the protection of the military's access to essential frequency spectrum. That was a highly contested issue in our legislation. The private sector had concerns that the Pentagon would absorb a proportion of the spectrum beyond its needs. But in consultation with Congressman BLILEY, the chairman of the House committee with jurisdiction, Senator MCCAIN, a distinguished member of our committee, as

well as chairman here of the Commerce Committee, we reached this compromise, which I hope all will find satisfactory.

In the Airland area, we had an additional \$1.5 billion for critical procurement requirements and an additional \$400 million for research and development activities above the President's request. We fully authorized the development and procurement budget request for the F-22 Raptor.

It is with some regret that the House did not adequately fund that program, in my judgment. That is a subject that is actively before the two Appropriations Committees. But both the House and the Senate authorizing committees fully funded that program.

Lastly, upon assuming the chairmanship of this committee from my distinguished predecessor, Senator THURMOND, I decided to establish a new subcommittee entitled "Emerging Threats." That committee, under the great leadership of Senator ROBERTS, moved out, and here are some of the initiatives taken by that subcommittee.

We authorize and fully fund 17 new National Guard Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection—commonly known as RAID—Teams to respond to terrorist attacks in the United States—12 more than the administration request.

It was my judgment, and Senator ROBERTS' and the members of the committee, that this is the greatest threat poised at the United States today—the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, whether they be biological, chemical, or possibly the incorporation of some crude weapon involving fissionable material. We have to move out on that. Progress was made by this new subcommittee.

Further, we required the department to establish specific budget reporting procedures for its Combating Terrorism Program. This will give the program the focus and visibility it deserves while providing Congress with the information it requires to conduct thorough oversight of the department's efforts to combat the threat of terrorist attack both inside and outside the United States.

We authorize \$475 million for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program to accelerate the disarmament of the former Soviet Union—now Russia—strategic offensive arms that always threaten the United States. That was commonly referred to as the Nunn-Lugar program for a number of years.

We establish an Information Assurance Initiative to strengthen DOD's information assurance program and provide for an additional \$150 million to the administration's request for information assurances programs, projects, and activities.

In cyberspace today, with the rapid research and development—indeed, achievement—of many technical initiatives, the whole area of cyberspace is

threatened by an ever-growing number of sources of invasion and compromise, and indeed, disabling of the systems themselves.

I thank my colleagues for indulging me to speak to this important piece of legislation which will be filed tonight in the House and, of course, automatically in the Senate.

I shall now inquire of our staff as to the desire of other Members to speak, as well as the wrap up for the evening.

(Mr. KYL assumed the Chair.)

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I note the Senator from Kansas would like to be recognized, but I ask if I could just make a few comments about the remarks that Senator WARNER has just made.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I have been honored to join the Armed Services Committee this year. Senator WARNER just took over as its new chairman. Some said we did not do anything the first part of the year, but even before the impeachment hearings came, Senator WARNER knew that we had a crisis in our defense circumstances.

He has served as Secretary of the Navy. He loves this country, and he loves our men and women in uniform. He decided early that we had to send a signal to reverse this 13-year trend of cutting our defense budgets, and he did that with great leadership.

We have now a very healthy pay raise this year for our men and women, a guaranteed pay raise in excess of the inflation rate for the next 5 years for our men and women in the services.

We want to send them a message that we are concerned about the rapid deployments that they are undergoing and the amount of time they spend away from their families. And we want to continue to monitor that.

I want to say how much I have enjoyed serving with the Senator. Members of both parties respect him and enjoy working with him.

Mr. WARNER. If the Senator would yield?

Mr. SESSIONS. Yes.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator very much for his kind comments. But the Senator has brought to mind the fact that our majority leader, Senator LOTT, made a decision to support our committee in putting through S. 4, I think the earliest bill in the Senate, which brought about the pay raises and retirement adjustments, which, hopefully, will increase our readiness by encouraging more young men and women to join the Armed Forces—our recruiting having fallen off—and retaining the skilled personnel that we now have.

Also, it was the Joint Chiefs of Staff that on two occasions came before our committee—in September of last year and again in January of this year—and unequivocally stated, in their best pro-

fessional judgment, the need for additional dollars, and how best those funds could be expended by the Congress, and putting particular emphasis on the pay and allowances, which is always the top priority of the Chiefs for their men and women of the Armed Forces.

I thank my colleague.

Mr. SESSIONS. I want to say how much I respect our chairman. I believe this bill, this appropriations report, represents a commitment by our Nation to reverse the trend of decline. The chairman has supported the President when he is right. He has been prepared to oppose him when he is wrong. As to those who disagree with our firm commitment, that I know the Senator in the chair supports, to reform our nuclear labs and to bring an end to this absolute disaster of security that we have had, I am disappointed that they have not yet gotten the message that serious fundamental reform is needed. They say those words, but when we come down with a good bill that does it, they draw back and again have excuses. I hope we can work this out and the bill will pass.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I have just been informed, much to my great pleasure, that two members of the minority, two Democrats on the Armed Services Committee, have now decided to sign our conference report, and there is a likelihood of one or more additional ones. I depart the floor far more heartened than when I entered about 40 minutes ago.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the chairman. I also appreciate his leadership and those who are signing this report. I think it is a good one.

Mr. BROWNBACK addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

#### CHEMICAL WARFARE IN SUDAN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I stated my support for my distinguished colleague from Virginia who chairs the Armed Services Committee. He did a wonderful job with that. This is such an important topic, even though we tend to think of the world as a stable place where we don't have to worry about it. I am glad he is worried about it and is so focused on it.

That is what I would like to draw the body's attention to right now, a situation that was reported this week in the reporting organizations of Reuters, the Associated Press, and the New York Times. This is a very troubling situation. It is in a part of the world that has experienced a great deal of trouble, but nonetheless, I want to point it out to this body.

On July 23, 22 bombs were reported dropped on two villages in Sudan—Lainya and Kaaya—resulting in inter-

nal hemorrhaging, miscarriages, animals dying among the villages. Several days later, after the bombs had fallen on this one village, United Nations relief workers with World Food Programme visited the town of Lainya and immediately fell ill with strange symptoms. They were consequently evacuated to Kampala, Uganda, for testing even as they continued to physically suffer.

This, in turn, precipitated the beginning of a United Nations investigation into the use of chemical weapons, as reported this week by those three news organizations, chemical weapons that the chairman of the Armed Services Committee was just noting, that the biggest threat we are facing in the future is weapons of mass destruction. We are seeing here this week, reported in the newspaper, what has taken place in the Sudan, the symptoms of chemical weapons being reported.

We can't at this time jump to conclusions that they were actually used, but the evidence points clearly to the use of chemical weapons by the organization, by the government in Khartoum against its own civilian population in the southern part of that country.

This is also a government in Khartoum that is sponsoring terrorists around the world, where Osama bin Laden stayed and was hosted by them up until 1997 in Khartoum. They are trying to expand in three adjacent countries, saying we want to take our view of how the world should be organized into these countries and we are willing to do it by any means. We are even willing to use any means against our own people, against our own people.

They have killed in their own country 2 million people. They have pushed out and dislocated an additional 4 million people. Last year alone, they forced into starvation 100,000 people by denying our food aid to go where these people were located. They said: You cannot fly your relief planes to feed these poor people. Now they continue to bomb their civilian population, even with, if the evidence this week is proved true, chemical weapons.

I think this is so horrifying. I wanted to draw the attention of the Senate to what has been reported by these three news organizations this week and to call on the nation of Sudan to stop bombing its own civilian population, to refuse to do that, to call upon the U.N. to, with as much speed and haste as possible, conduct a full investigation of what has been reported this week as having happened to the civilian population, and call on U.S. authorities to investigate this as fully as we can to see what actually took place. If true, this is truly horrifying, that weapons of mass destruction such as these chemical weapons would be used against their own civilian population. I think it is just absolutely unconscionable, virtually unbelievable.